

TRIBUTE TO JOE ALLEN AZBELL

Mr. HEFLIN. Mr. President, Joe Allen Azbell—author, journalist, and adviser to Presidents and Governors—passed away on September 30 after a lengthy illness. He was city editor of the Montgomery Advertiser newspaper, a columnist for the Montgomery Independent, and the author of three books.

While his formal education ended with the fifth grade, Joe's accomplishments are truly historic. He is credited with helping make the Montgomery bus boycott possible. Joining the staff of the Advertiser in 1947, within 5 years he had become one of the youngest city editors in the South. In December 1955, he ran a front-page story on the impending bus boycott. The Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., once remarked that the boycott might never have occurred without this pivotal article.

Born during the Great Depression in a small Texas dustbowl town, Joe Azbell ran away from home at the age of 12 because his parents did not allow him to read books, and his thirst for knowledge could not be quenched. He hid in small-town libraries, figuring that the truant police would not look for him there. During World War II, he joined the Army Air Corps and began his career in journalism.

Joe served as an advisor to every Alabama Governor going back to Gordon Persons. He was especially close to George Wallace, for whom he wrote speeches during his presidential campaign. He supposedly came up with the political slogan "Send them a message" for the campaign. John Chancellor of NBC called it the best political slogan of this century. He was also an advisor to every American President from Lyndon Johnson to George Bush.

Much of the success Joe Azbell enjoyed over the years was due to his colorful personality and gift for getting along with all types of people. He had a genuine interest in people and thoroughly enjoyed getting to know them and talking to them. Likewise, people responded to his charm, humor, and honesty.

Joe will be sorely missed by those who knew him both personally or only through his excellent reporting and commentary. I extend my sincerest condolences to his family in the wake of their tremendous loss.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM ORR GRAHAM

Mr. HEFLIN. Mr. President, Mr. William Orr "Bill" Graham passed away on September 28 after an extended illness. The Morgan County, AL, native was founder and owner of Graham & Son Piano House and was active in his community and in State politics for many years.

Bill Graham attended Auburn University. He once received the Florence Civitan Club's Book of Golden Deeds

Award for outstanding community service. He was a charter member of the Florence Chamber of Commerce, president of the North Tennessee Valley Council of the Boy Scouts of America and was an organizer of the Camp Westmoreland Boy Scout Camp and the Kiwanis high school Key Clubs.

Bill was elected by the people of the Eighth Congressional District to serve on the State Democratic executive committee. He was also a member of the Alabama Industrial Development Board. He organized the talent contest at the North Alabama State Fair, was youth talent director of the MidSouth Fair in Memphis, a talent scout for the Ted Mack Amateur Hour, and was instrumental in securing college scholarships for many deserving youth in the Shoals area.

In addition, Bill was talent coordinator for the Cerebral Palsy Telethon for many years, past president of the Gilbert School PTA, chairman of the administrative board of North Wood Methodist Church, and aide-de-camp to the battalion commander of the Alabama State National Guard. He was also part of the management of the Birmingham Barons baseball team.

William O. Graham was truly an outstanding community leader who gave of himself in many years over his long life. He will be sorely missed. I extend my sincerest condolences to his family in the wake of their loss.

TRIBUTE TO LEWIS E. MCCRAY

Mr. HEFLIN. Mr. President, longtime West Alabama Planning and Development Council Executive Director Lewis E. McCray has announced his plans to retire at the end of this year. He has held the executive director position since October 1, 1967, when he became the first paid director of the council. When he was hired, the agency was known as the Tuscaloosa Area Council of Local Governments and its members consisted of Tuscaloosa County and the cities of Tuscaloosa and Northport. Initially, the agency was funded through a program of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Under Lewis McCray's outstanding leadership, the agency has grown to a membership of 7 counties and 34 municipalities. Due to its expanded membership, its name was changed to the West Alabama Planning and Development Council in 1971. It has been designated an Economic Development District, Local Development District, Metropolitan Planning Organization, and an Area Agency on Aging. The Council also administers the Title V Senior AIDES Program and Community Development Block Grants and provides technical assistance to local governments.

Mr. McCray has been active in many civic and professional organizations. His professional affiliations currently include his service as president of the Alabama Association of Regional Coun-

cils, member of the board of directors of the National Association of Development Organizations, member of the National Association of Regional Councils, the Chamber of Commerce of West Alabama, the Tuscaloosa County Industrial Development Authority, and the Tuscaloosa Convention and Visitors Bureau.

He is a native of Hale County, AL, and was educated in the public schools of Moundville and at the University of Alabama. Before being named executive director of the council, he taught business law and accounting at Shelton State Community College. He also served as the executive assistant to the late U.S. Congressman Armistead Selden.

I congratulate and commend Lewis McCray for an outstanding career and for all he has done to benefit his community, region, and State. I wish him all the best for a long, happy, and healthy retirement.

THE REVEREND H. KENNETH DUTILLE, JR.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. President, as we all know, the Senate can impose tremendous demands on its Members as we grapple with the difficult decisions facing this body and this Nation. It is no surprise then, that the Senate begins each of its sessions with a prayer delivered by a distinguished religious leader.

Earlier today, that spiritual leadership came from the Reverend Kenneth Dutille, Jr., of the First Baptist Church in Bath, ME. Reverend Dutille is truly dedicated to his work, his congregation and his community, and I am very pleased that he was selected to be one of two guest Chaplains we will have this month.

The distinction is deserved, for Reverend Dutille visits us with many accomplishments. He is a graduate of Baptist Bible College in Springfield, MO, and the University of Maine. He holds a masters degree from the California Graduate School of Theology. In his many travels, educational and otherwise, he has preached in over 200 churches in New England alone.

It is particularly fitting that Reverend Dutille lead the Senate's invocation today because he brings with him an understanding of some of the demands and pressures on those in public life. He is a selectman in his town of Richmond and was a candidate for the Maine State Legislature in 1994.

Reverend Dutille also knows the strains and joys of a successful life as a small business owner, running the Good News Book Shop in Brunswick. Just recently, he added a book of his own to the shelves, "Images of America: Lewiston and Auburn."

As evidenced by Reverend Dutille's invocation this morning, he is an asset to his congregation and his community. His accomplishments, boundless energy, and exemplary service make